

REMARKS

Claims 9-14 and 17-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 9, 17 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-8, 10-11 and 15-16 have been canceled without prejudice. New claim 20 has been added.

The basis for the foregoing amendments may be found throughout the written description, drawings and claims, as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has determined that dependent claims 16-18 (which ultimately depend from independent claim 9) contain allowable subject matter, and that those claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Independent claim 9 has been amended and now recites all of the limitations of previously pending and allowable claim 16. Likewise, new independent claim 20 includes all of those same limitations, except that the apparatus of the claim is directed to a nautical steering system.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the foregoing reasons, claims 9-14, 17, 18 and 20 are patentable and in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9 and 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pailler (U.S. Pat. No. 3,946,706). Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § Serial No. 10/519,957

102(b) as being anticipated by GB Pat. No. 1460986. It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing claim amendments, these rejections are moot. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pailler (U.S. Pat. No. 3,946,706). This rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly in view of the foregoing amendments to claim 19.

With regard to cited reference US 3,946,706 to Pallier, Applicant respectfully submits that Pallier does not disclose or suggest the fixed axis of the shaft being spaced from the second axis, as recited in amended claim 19. In contrast, and with reference to Figure 2 of Pallier, shaft 3 rotates about axis **A** which, with reference to Figure 1, is at the intersection of the axis of motion of both sets of opposed pistons. The arrangement claimed, however, of the fixed axis of the shaft being spaced from the second axis, is advantageous as it is able to provide varying durations of the strokes of the housing.

Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that claim 19 is patentable and in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the forgoing rejection.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant submits herewith a supplemental information disclosure statement, which identifies references brought to the Applicant's attention during the prosecution of

corresponding patent applications pending in other jurisdictions. In particular, Applicant encloses herewith for the Examiner's reference a copy an official action from a corresponding Japanese patent application.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references, either individually or in combination, disclose or suggest the invention of the subject application as presented in the amended claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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